

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 8. Claim 8 has been canceled. Thus, no new matter has been added. Upon entry of this amendment, which is respectfully requested, Claims 1-7 will be pending.

Preliminarily, Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview conducted on October 8, 2008. Applicants believe it was helpful in advancing the prosecution of this application. A Statement of Substance of Interview is submitted herewith.

Response to Claim Objection

Claim 8 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim.

Claim 8 has been canceled, rendering the objection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under § 103

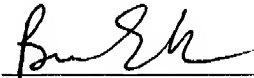
Claims 1 and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,807,994 to Westermann and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,194,210 to Lommerts. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Westermann and Lommerts fail to disclose or suggest a rubberized fiber material wherein the coating rubber has a rubber component consisting of natural rubber. Thus, Westermann and Lommerts fail to render obvious the present claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 24, 2008